UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/1996/L.27*
19 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1996
New York, 24 June-26 July 1996
Agenda item 9 (b)

COORDINATION QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS

Albania**, Algeria**, Antigua and Barbuda**, Argentina, Armenia**, Bangladesh, Benin**, Bhutan**, Bolivia**, Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Botswana**, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam**, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso**, Cambodia**, Cape Verde**, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia**, Cuba**, Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, Djibouti**, Dominican Republic**, Ecuador**, Egypt, El Salvador**, Eritrea**, Ethiopia**, Fiji**, Gabon, Gambia**, Ghana, Guatemala**, Guinea**, Guinea-Bissau**, Guyana, Haiti**, Honduras**, Hungary**, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of)**, Iraq**, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya**, Kyrgyzstan**, Latvia**, Lebanon, Lesotho**, Liechtenstein**, Lithuania**, Madagascar**, Malawi**, Malaysia, Mali**, Malta**, Mexico**, Mongolia**, Morocco**, Mozambique**, Myanmar**, Namibia**, Nepal**, New Zealand**, Nicaragua, Niger**, Nigeria**, Pakistan, Panama**, Papua New Guinea**, Paraguay, Peru**, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea**, Republic of Moldova**, Romania, Rwanda**, Saudi Arabia**, Senegal, Sierra Leone**, Singapore**, Slovakia**, Slovenia**, South Africa, Sri Lanka**, Sudan, Suriname**, Syrian Arab Republic**, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey**, Uganda, Ukraine**, United Arab Emirates**, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay**, Uzbekistan**, Venezuela, Viet Nam**, Yemen**, Zaire**, Zambia**, Zimbabwe:

draft resolution

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

** In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

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The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Conscious of the deep interest of Member States in harnessing the benefits of new information technologies for the objectives of economic and social development,

Recalling its resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994 and 1995/61 of 28 July 1995 on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States,

Recalling further that in resolution 1995/61 it requested the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene, initially for one year, an ad hoc open-ended working group, from within existing resources, to make appropriate recommendations for the due fulfilment of the provisions of previous resolutions on this item,

Welcoming the oral report presented by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics on the progress achieved so far by the Group in fulfilling its mandate,

Appreciating that the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group has not involved any additional expenditures and that its needs have been met from within existing resources,

Appreciating further the actions taken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group significantly to expand and improve the connectivity between United Nations databases and those of Member States, including their Permanent Missions, and the training programme initiated to that end,

Noting with interest the proposed initiatives, including the setting up of video conferencing rooms which the Permanent Missions could use, and the updating of the connection between the United Nations internet facility and its optical disk system,

Noting the request made by the Commission on Sustainable Development in its decision 4/5 1/ that the Working Group give particular attention to facilitating the access of Member States to environmental databases throughout the United Nations system,

Agreeing with the assessment contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group that further work needs to be done by the Group to fulfil its mandate,

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1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1996, Supplement No. 8 (E/1996/28), chap. I, sect. C.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up action taken, 2/

1. Reiterates, once again, the high priority it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and for observers, through, inter alia, their Permanent Missions, to the growing number of computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations;

2. Calls for the urgent and continued implementation of measures required to achieve these objectives;

3. Stresses the continuing need for representatives of States to be closely consulted and actively associated with the respective executive and governing bodies of United Nations institutions dealing with informatics within the United Nations system, so that the specific needs of States as internal end-users can be given due priority;

4. Decides that the action programme to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States should continue to be implemented from within existing resources and in full consultation with the representatives of States;

5. Commends the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for the concrete actions it has taken in pursuance of its mandate;

6. Requests the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene for one more year the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics from within existing resources, so that it may continue its useful work for the due fulfilment of the provisions of the resolutions on this item;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

8. Requests further the Secretary-General to report on the follow-up action taken on the present resolution, including the findings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997.

2/ E/1996/81.